Bonds Beyond the Classroom: VBM School Friends and Me.

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My Classroom View and Seating Arrangements:

In the school building, the classrooms for grades 9 and 10 were located on the ground floor. From our classroom, we had a clear view of the entrance gate, allowing us to observe people entering and exiting the school. Additionally, our classroom was directly facing the school stage, providing us with a prominent view of performances and events taking place on the stage.

In the classroom, there was a clear division between the seating arrangement for girls and boys. Girls sat on the right side, while boys sat on the left side. On the last bench in the far left corner, I found my seat next to Mythili. Preetha Mythili's sister, and she had a fondness for me, gifting me a handcrafted present that I still cherish in 2023.

A Cherished Friendship with Mythili, Lakshmi, and Bharathi:

Next to **Mythili**, there were two other classmates, Lakshmi and Bharathi. Mythili and **Lakshmi** would often engage in lively conversations, once with **Bhrathi** sharing detailed descriptions of the Telugu film "Mahadeera" from start to finish. I developed a close friendship with Mythili, and she would share many things with me. Lakshmi was also caring and attentive, and Bharathi, though quiet, would observe our conversations.

Supportive Friends Who Made School Enjoyable:

All three of them took good care of me and offered their help whenever needed, even helping me carry my bags. Their support and friendship made me feel at ease during those two years, and their presence added joy to my school experience☺.

Notable Classmates and Their Roles in My School Life:

Within our class, there were several notable individuals. **Thanu Shree** stood out as the top-ranked student, known for her excellent academic performance and positive attitude. **Nithya**, on the other hand, seemed innocent and less involved in various activities. **Chandana**, with whom I shared memories at Joseph School, didn't have the same connection in our Vishwa Bharathi Matriculation School. Lastly, **Rekha** possessed exceptional artistic skills and excelled in drawing, mehndi, and handwriting. These four girls have remained good friends to this day being touch with each others☺.

On the first bench, I had a special friendship with **Babitha**, one of my favorite girls. We would often have lunch together, and she would bring delicious sabji and chapati. One day, she introduced me to the taste, and we would exchange "I love you"🥰 greetings every morning, playfully acting like a couple. Babitha was seated alongside **Anthima,**

Swathi, and **Brundha**, and there was an ongoing rivalry between the Anthima gang and the Rekha gang. While they would discuss each other, Babitha remained loyal and never shared any information between the groups. Our foursome formed a tight-knit gang😁.

Anthima, who ranked second in the class, was constantly competing with Thanu for the highest marks. She was an excellent dancer and had a mischievous side to her. Swathi, who studied alongside Thanu, also performed exceptionally well academically and was a talented classical dancer. Although she didn't speak much, I witnessed her playful nature when she was with Anthima and Brundha. Lastly, Brundha, unlike Anthima and Swathi, was a simple and down-to-earth girl, fitting in well with the rest of their gang.

A Sensitive Incident During Seventh Grade:

During the seventh grade, I had an incident involving Anthima and Swathi. It was Prashanth's birthday, which coincided with Children's Day. I was alone in the classroom when Anthima and Swathi entered, laughing and drawing on the board. Anthima asked if I had received chocolates from Prashanth, and when I didn't understand, they started teasing me about him. Although it may seem funny now, back then, it was hurtful to be compared to a guy. I started crying, and they quickly left. It was Babitha who eventually came to the classroom and comforted me, reassuring me with her presence😅.

The Varied Personalities and Friendships Among the Boys in My Class:

Among the boys in my class, there were several individuals with whom I had different levels of interaction and friendships. **L.Vinoth**, also known as LV, sat next to me. **Jagadeesh**, as I mentioned earlier, was one of my close friends. **Karthik** stood out for his

excellent dancing skills, which I admired. However, I got into trouble with the corresponding teacher for showing exam papers to him to write answers😏.

Deepu Singh sat next to **Mukesh**, and he was not very talkative with girls. **Rahul**, who gave me a birthday gift, was also a familiar face from my time at Joseph School. **Tamil Selvam** had moments of displaying attitude, but he was generally alright with me. **Balaji**, being part of a group that had a policy of not talking much to girls, often encouraged the other boys to speak with me. **Dinakar**, a gentle friend, was also in the same class as me at Joseph School.

Ranjith and I didn't have many conversations, but he would interact with my gang of friends. **Kiran**, with whom I didn't speak much back then, now has a closer connection (Kiruku Kiran 😂). **Madhan** came across as an innocent person, while **Chethan, Akshay, Ravi Chandran, and Koti Sai** were also part of our class. Me and Babi, always fond of Ravi and Jaga, would often talk about them.

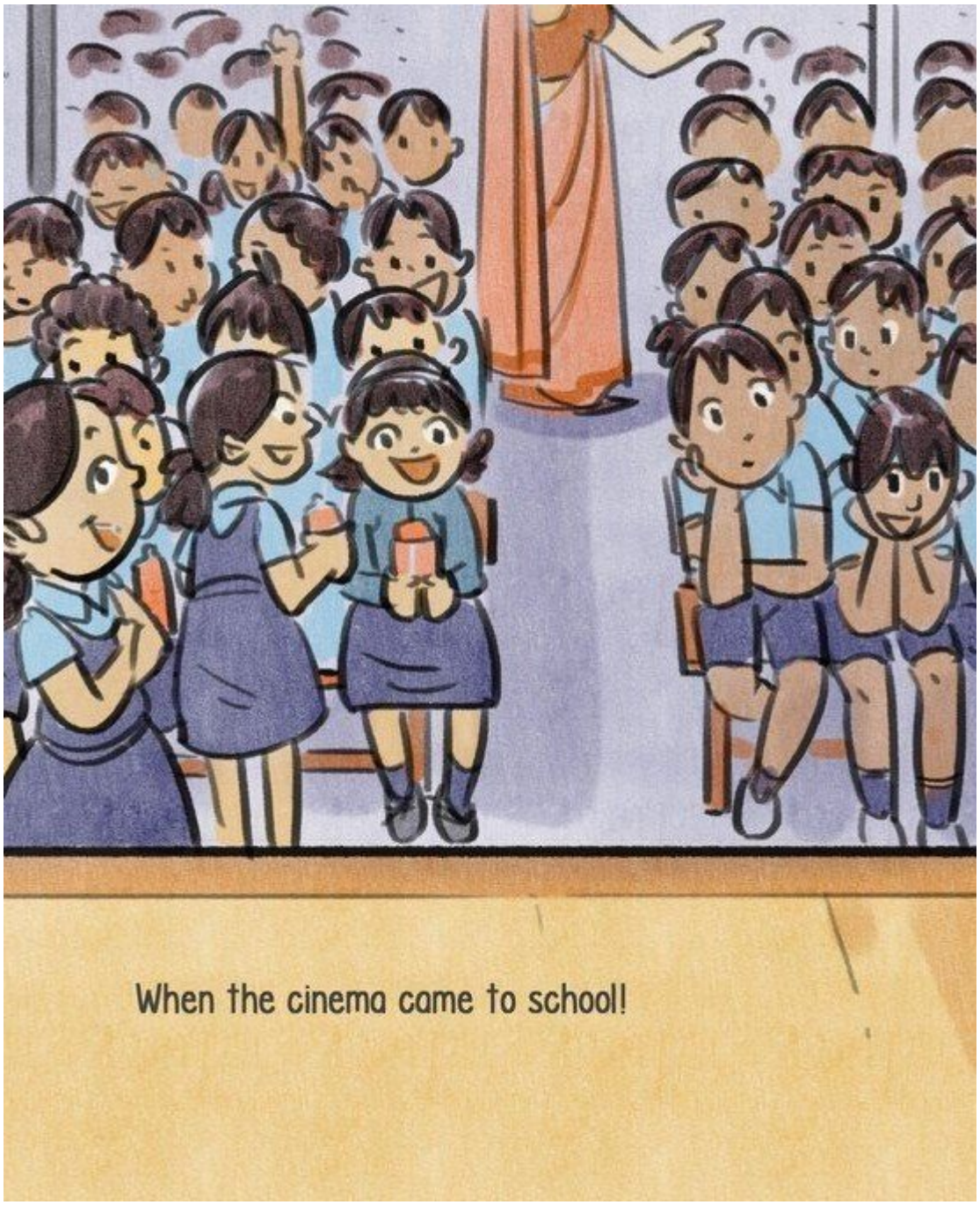
These were the boys in my class, each with their unique personalities and dynamics within our group of friends.

The Most Memorable Incidents of All Time:

As the first batch for "Chamacheer Kalvi," we encountered some confusion with the new syllabus for nearly three months😧. One of the funniest incidents took place during a science class lesson on the reproductive system. **Shalini miss**, our tenth-grade teacher, had given us pens as a gift for Children's Day. Bharathi received a violet pen, which happened to be my favorite color, while I received a blue one, which left me a bit disappointed. On another occasion, Ravi surprised me with a watermelon, and although I wasn't used to accepting food from others, I enjoyed it as he handed it to me😁.

On *14-3-12*, Balaji came to my home to give me chocolates for his birthday. He was not the kind of guy who conversed much with girls, so it was a special gesture. During Children's Day on *12-11-11*, we played indoor games, but I wasn't actively participating, and Bharathi was simply watching Jagdeesh and Ravi play. However, Ravi noticed me and Bharathi discussing the game and asked for permission to join us. Unfortunately, I ended up losing the game after just a few moves. Ravi was a master at the cheese game, and it was a bit disappointing for me😒.

Sports Day was another event that left me feeling disheartened because I couldn't actively participate. I wished I could have played all the games and enjoyed the activities alongside my classmates😑. It's understandable to feel a sense of longing and disappointment when unable to fully engage in such events.



SCHOOL MEMORIES

“In the hallways of VBM School, amidst laughter and shared dreams, our friendships were forged, shaping memories that will forever gleam.”